

exceeds the vegetable part of the diet. The Pileated Woodpecker, the Flickers and the Sapsuckers, with the possible exception of *S. thyroideus*, are more or less intermediate in this respect.

Ants constitute the largest item of animal food, taking all the species collectively, and are actually the largest item in eight species. The smallest numbers are consumed by the Three-toed Woodpeckers and the members of the *Melanerpes* group. Beetles rank next in importance, and these two items combined constitute nearly one-half of the total food.

The vegetable food consists almost wholly of fruit, cambium and mast. Cambium is eaten chiefly by the Sapsuckers, while beech nuts are an important article of diet with the Red-head, and acorns form more than half the food of the California Woodpecker.

Prof. Beal concludes that the Sapsuckers are the only injurious species of the family in the United States, their damage to timber due to their fondness for cambium and sap being extensive and serious. The two species of Three-toed Woodpeckers are of particular value in our northern forests for their destruction of wood-boring coleopterous larvæ. The Downy Woodpecker is also one of the most useful species, its only fault, shared by several other Woodpeckers, being the dissemination of the seeds of poison ivy and poison sumach.

Each of the two stomachs of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker examined contained many destructive wood-boring larvæ. As the author says: "These powerful birds are able to reach wood-boring grubs in places where smaller species fail, and their large bodies require a great quantity of such food"; and further: "When we see how much good this woodpecker is capable of doing as a guardian of the forest, it seems deplorable that it should be allowed to be exterminated. Wise legislation, backed by intelligent public opinion, may retard, if not absolutely prevent, the present destruction and allow the bird to regain something of its former abundance. There is plenty of room for this splendid species and much need of its services in the great southern forests."

Colored plates by Fuertes, illustrating seven species, add to the usefulness of this valuable report.—W. DeW. M.

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